

New York PFAS Issues *INTERNAL* EPA Background Fact Sheet

NEW YORK PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES STANDARDS

BACKGROUND

- New York's current per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) Standards, Criteria, and Guidance:
 - Potentially **10 nanograms/liter (ng/L)** for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) based on New York State Drinking Water Quality Council (NYDWQC) recommendations.
 - Potentially **10 ppt** for perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) based on NYDWQC panel recommendations.
 - These recommendations were accepted by the commissioner of the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) on July 8, 2019. After state register publication and public comment these will be the lowest Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for PFOA and PFOS in the country.
- Under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), NYSDOH has the lead for implementing the drinking water program in New York and considerable action has occurred in New York to address PFOA, PFOS, and 1,4-dioxane in drinking water.
- New York State has established the Emerging Contaminants Water Infrastructure Improvement Grants which will provide \$185 million in funding to communities upgrading drinking water treatment systems to address PFOA, PFOS, and 1,4-dioxane.

KEY POINTS

- In 2019, EPA made available \$44,938,000 in Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) funding to New York State. In New York, the DWSRF is jointly administered by NYSDOH and the New York Environmental Facilities Corporation.
- In relation to the Hoosick Falls site, in October 2019, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) released an alternate water supply study to the community. ***INTERNAL***: Providing the alternate supply could be precedent-setting, given the fact that the community's supply has been mitigated (granular activated treatment) to meet SDWA standards. The public comment period related to the alternate water supply study ended on 12/10. Forty comments were received from 30 parties. Many comments supported "no further action" (*i.e.*, keep the existing treatment system). The second-greatest number of comments proposed that if a new water source is provided, the new source should be treated with the newly built municipal water treatment system.
- **Senator Gillibrand has called upon EPA to set standards for PFOA and supports cleaning up the Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics - McCaffery Street site in Hoosick Falls, NY.**
- On June 24, 2019, Lisa Hofflich, Senator Gillibrand's Hudson Valley Office Director, sent EPA R2 an email on behalf of the Town of New Windsor, NY regarding the PFOA/PFAS contamination of its municipal drinking water well, which serves both New Windsor and Newburgh, NY (a combined population of over 50,000 people). In her note, she highlighted that the town of New Windsor was looking for financial assistance and guidance to combat these issues. The town is currently paying to draw water from the NYC Aqueduct. In addition to that expense, officials still need to service the debt incurred in constructing two wells that had to be shut down because of PFOS/PFOA contamination.
- On August 9, 2019, Senator Gillibrand and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) announced that they called on the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Armed Services Committee to include their bipartisan, Senate-passed PFAS provisions in the upcoming final National Defense Authorization Act conference bill.

TALKING POINTS

- The EPA is moving forward with the MCL process outlined in the SDWA for PFOA and PFOS. The process prescribed by the Act ensures scientific integrity and transparency when developing regulations for contaminants in public water systems.
- The Agency's comprehensive PFAS Action Plan identifies both short-term solutions for addressing PFAS chemicals and long-term strategies that will help provide the tools and technologies states, tribes, and local communities need to clean up sites and provide clean and safe drinking water to their residents.

CONTAMINATED SITES

Non-Responsive

Non-Responsive

Northrop Grumman, RCRA Corrective Action Facility - Bethpage, NY

- In 1941, Northrop Grumman (NG) purchased the property and started production of aircraft during WWII. Later the Navy and NG exchanged properties, resulting in a 109-acre Government-Owned Contractor-Operated facility and a neighboring 550-acre NG-owned and operated facility.
- A major focus of the remediation is an off-site groundwater plume which is approximately 4-mile long and 2-mile wide. The primary contaminant is trichloroethylene with additional 1,4-dioxane contaminants.
- PFAS recently have been detected in on-site groundwater on the Navy property. The PFAS is believed to be associated with aqueous film-forming foam used primarily for firefighting.
- PFOA and PFOS maximum concentrations found were 99 and 147 ng/L, respectively.

Updated by R2 January 17, 2020

- The sum of PFOA and PFOS exceeded the EPA HA of 70 ng/L in three monitoring wells.
- Groundwater is the sole source for potable water in Nassau County. A number of public water supply systems are affected (and are undergoing treatment) or are in the path of this groundwater plume. As the groundwater plume is not uniformly contaminated, the Navy and Grumman are working on treatment of several highly contaminated areas.
- NYSDEC is working with the USGS on developing a detailed plan for eventual containment of this plume, with discharge of treated groundwater back into the aquifer.
- Navy's former Drum Marshalling Area has a vapor intrusion containment system in-place and is scheduled to undergo excavation and disposal of PCB contaminated soils upon approval of the draft work plan.

Non-Responsive

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